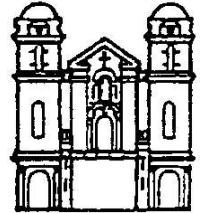


St James the Greater Leicester



14th DECEMBER 2025

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prayer for the Week

O Lord Jesus Christ,
 who at your first coming sent your messenger
 to prepare your way before you:
 grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
 may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
 by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
 that at your second coming to judge the world
 we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
 for you are alive and reign with the Father
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.
 Amen.

Our Prayers are asked for:

All prevented from worshipping with us, remembering
 Marilyn Dorum : Nina French : Anthony Green :
 Gillian Boorne, and all those currently unable to attend services.

Those who are unwell and who are recovering
 Mark Sadler : Nicola Shilton : Mandy Stephensen :
 Mollie Drake : Michael Molloy : Chris Jones : Kathryn Haynes : Jean Warren :
 Stephanie Crapper : Polly Taylor : Caroline Hough : Margo Woolhouse : Anne
 Sylvester : Diane Allen : John Finn : Neill Addison-Gutteridge

Rest in peace
 Rex Woolhouse

Welcome to St James the Greater

08:30 Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel

Common Worship Order I (Traditional)

President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

Assisted by: Feby John

Churchwarden: Paul Jenkins

A card reader donation machine is available.

10:30 Sung Eucharist

President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

Assisted by: Lucy Hutchinson and Sheila Roberts, Associate Minister

Churchwardens: April Rule and Serge Mozota

Sidesperson: Margaret Clarke

Servers: Lucy Hutchinson, Tony Chizema and Charles Samuel

Setting: Ireland in C

HYMN 32 (omit verse 4) Come, thou Redeemer of the earth

READING Isaiah 35.1-10 *read by Phil Jones*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,

and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,

the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,

and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

‘Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

GRADUAL HYMN 44 i O Child of promise, come!

GOSPEL Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

SERMON

The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

INTERCESSIONS

Sheila Roberts, Associate Minister

OFFERTORY HYMN 38

Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding

MOTET

This is the record of John - Gibbons

POST COMMUNION HYMN 36 Hark the glad sound!

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

RECESSIONAL HYMN 41 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Please be aware of those remaining to listen.

Please stay for refreshments at the end of the service.

A card reader donation machine is available at the back of church.

19.00 Leicester Community Carol Service

see special order of service

Officiant: Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

Servers: William Woolley, Val Bailey, Hilary Rees and Phil Jones

Churchwardens: April Rule and Serge Mozota

Everyone is invited for refreshments after the service.

The Vicar Writes

In the business of this season it is so easy to get caught up in preparations and getting ready, that we forget what we are getting ready *for*. And that entails some deep reflection: what do we look for as Christmas comes nearer? Nostalgia with carols? Food and family? Fun and presents? Or discovering how Jesus' coming in our lives and in the world transforms *everything*.



Sunday 21st December

4th Sunday of Advent

08:30 Holy Communion President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

10:30 Sung Eucharist President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar
Readings: Isaiah 7.10-16 and Matthew 1.18-25

18.30 Nine Lessons and Carols Officiant: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

The Week Ahead

Monday 15th

10.30 **Small Sounds** in the Hall

Tuesday 16th

19.30 **Ex Cathedra Concert**

Wednesday 17th

21:00 **Compline** via Zoom. To join, please use the link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81259880030?pwd=TG9JbmJzUW56VmFrMmJxdDJBTHFNQT09>

Meeting ID: 812 5988 0030 Passcode: u7iqca

Thursday 18th

12:30 **Holy Communion** Common Worship, Order 1 (Traditional)

President: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar

Assisted by: Vicky Roe, Pastoral Assistant

19.30 **Leicester Philharmonic Choir Christmas Concert**

Friday 19th

16.30 Junior Choir. 18.30 Chorister Training. 19.00 Full Choir Rehearsal

Saturday 20th

19.30 **City of Leicester Singers Christmas Concert**

LEICESTER THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The next lecture is called 'The heavens are telling the glory of God - or are they?' and is given by Dr Thomas Bartsch (President of the Society). This is on Friday 9th January at 7.30pm in the Frassati Centre, Wellington Street. Please visit <https://sites.google.com/view/leicester-theological-society/home?pli=1> for more information.

CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Please save your stamps for the InterCare box at church. It helps if you can leave a small margin of paper around the stamp when cutting it off the envelope. Thank you to everyone who has brought stamps throughout the year.

PLANNED GIVING

St. James relies on donations for funding. The Parish Giving Scheme enables donations directly from your bank account and adds Gift Aid for the church, if you are a taxpayer. Information packs are on the table at the back of church.

Alternatively, boxes of envelopes for cash donations for each Sunday from 1st December 2025 to 30th November 2026 can be provided, to save you filling out a Gift Aid envelope each time. If you would like to have a box, and complete a Gift Aid form if you pay tax, please see Vicky Roe, leave a message for her at the church office (0116 2542111) or send an E-mail to:

pastoral.assistant@sthamesthegreater.org.uk

SMALL SOUNDS

Small Sounds is a national initiative by the Cathedral Music Trust and we are fortunate to have been chosen to take part in the current cohort of churches and Cathedrals. We meet each Monday in the Church Hall in the with a session from 10.30am-11.00am followed by refreshments 11.00-11.30. Please let those with young children know about this. It's free to attend (with optional donations).

There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church for anyone who would like to help. Please sign up for as much or as little as you can commit to. The timings are: Mondays: 10.00 set up, 10.15 doors open, 10.30 Music session, 11.00 refreshments and chat, 11.30 close and pack up till 11.45.

THE SHELL

Printed copies of the latest edition are available at the back of church. Please put donations in the box on the back wall.

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS 2025 and EPIPHANY 2026

Sunday 14 th December	7:00 pm Community Carol Service in aid of LOROS and St James the Greater, celebrating the message and meaning of Christmas, with the theme of local and national anniversaries. Reserve your free tickets at trybooking.com
Sunday 21 st December	6:30 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Wednesday 24 th December	3.00 pm Children's Service - 'No rehearsal Nativity', carols and crafts 11.30 pm Midnight Mass
Thursday 25th December	8.30 am Said Communion 10.30 am Family Service followed by Holy Communion
Sunday 11th January	6:30 pm Epiphany Carol Service
Sunday 1 st February	6.30 pm Candlemas Service

Resources for Home Worship

Broadcast Media

Daily Service Monday – Friday at 9.45am Radio 4 Extra on DAB
Freeview 708, Freesat 708, Sky 0126, Virgin Media 910 and online at

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006wzfs>

Sunday Worship	Sunday at 8.10 am	Radio 4
Songs of Praise	Sunday at 1.15 pm	BBC 1
Choral Evensong	Sunday and Wednesday at 3 pm	Radio 3
Compline	Sunday at 10pm	Radio 3

Online at www.churchofengland.org and www.leicestercathedral.org

DAILY HOPE TELEPHONE SERVICE – 0345 646 2206 charged at landline rate

Funded by the charity 'Faith in Later Life', which welcomes donations for the service at: www.faithinlaterlife.org.uk/donate

It is helpful to have the telephone on speakerphone to avoid having to hold the handset.

The options available from a telephone keypad are:

1. Hymns we love
2. Chair exercises
3. Festive One minute sermons by J. John
4. Reflections on Hark! the herald angels sing
5. Prayers for the season
6. Sleep Well with Daily Hope

CONTACTING THE TEAM

Andrew can be contacted by E-mail at: revdaquigley@gmail.com or 0116 2544113.

The Church Office can be contacted by E-mail at: office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk or by telephoning 0116 2542111 and leaving a message. Please do not hesitate to get in touch. Further details are on our website: www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk

Church office opening hours this week:

Monday 15th December 1.15pm – 4.15pm

Tuesday 16th December 1.15pm -4.14pm

